BENGALURU, FRIDAY, JULY 3, 2026 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

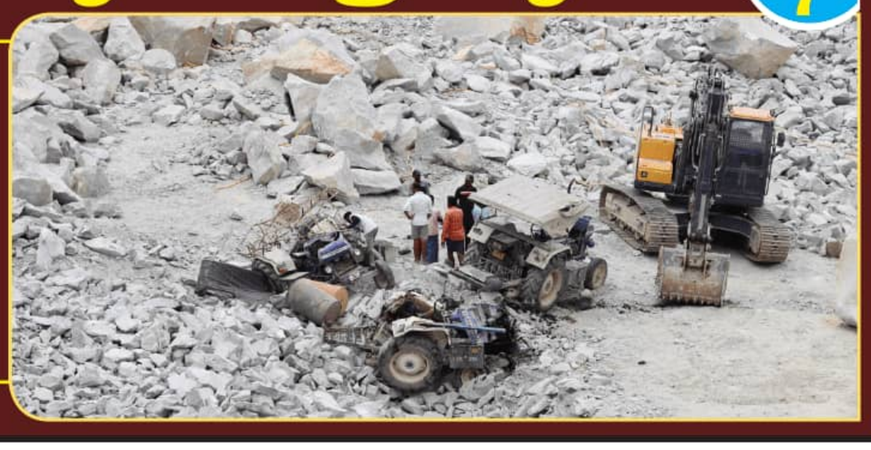
Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 30 | Min 21 | Humidity 80% Generally cloudy sky with Light rain Sensex 77,502 | Nifty 24,175 | Gold 1,43 | lar 95.39 | Euro 109.64 | GBP 126.66

Quarry tragedy

CITY PAGE 7

Officials race to find out what went wrong after 7 migrant labourers die when massive rock fell on them at work site



Real on reel

FILM PAGE 12

Actor Madhuri Dixit Nene says she is happy cinema is finally making space for characters that have rough edges

Is submission of details online enough or do physical forms also need to be submitted? Why are forms not available in English also? Why have forms not reached in all areas? Questions galore as SIR enumeration process kicks in

A FEW QUICK QUESTIONS

Citizens seek single verified source of information

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Even as the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) enumeration process is underway and an online submission option has been made available, several residents across Bengaluru have reported confusion over how exactly the forms should be filled and submitted.

While Booth Level Officers (BLOs) have been distributing physical forms door-to-door, many said they were either unaware of the online option or received conflicting instructions from officials regarding whether online submission alone was sufficient.

Residents from different parts of the city said that BLOs continued to stress the importance of submitting physical forms, even after citizens had completed the process online.

Adding to the confusion is the language barrier. Many residents have requested English versions of the forms, pointing out that the distributed forms were primarily in Kannada. Citizens said providing forms in both Kannada and English would make the process easier, especially in a cosmopolitan city such as Bengaluru.

Some residents said the website frequently failed to load, possibly due to heavy traffic. Others encountered issues during Aadhaar authentication, which is required to complete the online form. Since the authentication process involves receiving a one-time password (OTP) on the mobile number linked to Aadhaar, individuals

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

BLOs visit houses at Lakkasandra,Wilson Garden to distribute forms to residents

> **Clear instructions should be put on social media through official handles so that citizens can get transparency and clarity. Right now people are so confused. In fact, some BLO officers did not know about the online forms**
>
> —Frazer Town resident

TARGET PRACTICE

Citizens, activists raise concern that ongoing eviction drive is directed only against street vendors, while misuse by private entities is left untouched

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Vendors, activists and citizens have raised concerns that the ongoing footpath encroachment eviction drive may be targeting just one section of the society, without providing them with any alternatives. A city-based advocate and activist has raised the issues of civic authorities selectively targeting street vendors during the recent eviction drive on the Vijayanagar service road while ignoring encroachments by private vehicle owners. In a post on X, advocate Vinay Sreenivasa tagged Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda and said that officials evicted vendors from the Vijayanagar service road, which he said is "not a main road." He alleged that authorities refused to clear "old dusty vehicles" parked opposite the Vijayanagar Police Station and private vehicles belonging to affluent residents that were allegedly occupying public space.

"Only the poor are targets?" he wrote, questioning what he described as selective enforcement against economically vulnerable groups. When BM visited the spot, we were able to confirm that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Creativity unleashed

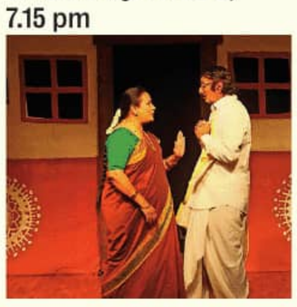
A hands-on Natural Dyeing Workshop introduces beginners to sustainable textile dyeing, exploring fabric preparation, mordanting and colour development through step by step demonstrations. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: July 4, 12 pm**

02 Weekend fun

Flo Sante 2026 offers a one-day curated shopping experience bringing together a wide range of women-led brands across fashion, jewellery, home décor, lifestyle, food and more. **Where: Princess Shrine; When: July 3, 10 am**

03 Play time

Antharanga, a celebrated Kannada theatre group, is set to present diverse plays at the Weekend Locality Drama Festival, featuring Kailasam Vaibhava, a heartfelt tribute to playwright TP Kailasam. **Where: KEA Prabhat Auditorium, Basaveshwara Nagar; When: July 4 and 5, 7.15 pm**



04 Musical traditions

Padma Shri Prahlad Singh Tipanya returns to Bengaluru with concerts, workshops, and citywide interactions, bringing an inspiring tribute to Kabir's timeless poetry, philosophy and oral traditions through Malwa folk music. **Where: Gayana Samaj, Jayanagar; When: July 3, 7 pm**

05 Figures in flow

Atta Galatta is hosting the launch of Move Through Math, a handbook for parents and educators of children aged 5–10, introducing embodied, culturally grounded approaches to learning mathematics through movement, rhythm and spatial awareness. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: July 4, 6 pm**

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Raze against time
A three-storey building in Bhakshi Garden, Chickpete, being demolished by GBA personnel along with the Fire and Emergency Services after authorities found that its foundation had weakened and the structure had leaned towards the road, posing a safety risk

No dog left behind: Adopt the ones that need you most

Initiative aims to promote adoption as sustainable solution to suffering of rescued animals and rising human-stray conflict

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru East City Corporation has come up with a unique initiative to give rescued animals a second chance at life. BECC is organising a pet adoption camp for dogs that have survived cruelty, road accidents or have been left physically disabled.

The adoption drive, scheduled to be held on July 11 at Nexus Shantiniketan Mall, aims to find loving forever homes for dogs that are unable to return to the streets after enduring abuse, serious injuries or permanent disabilities.

"Motherless puppies, cruelty victims and disabled dogs will be given priority for adoption. Some street dogs with a bite history will also be given preference, as when adopted, they undergo behavioural change. We decided to conduct this drive considering the large number of dog bite cases in our area. Moreover, we also see street animals suffering a great deal. Adoption of stray animals is the only way forward to resolve these issues," said an official from BECC. Through the initiative, the corporation hopes to connect compassionate adopters with these resilient animals, offering them the care, safety and companionship they deserve.

Adoption initiative aims to find loving homes for rescued animals

BECC invites rescuers to register dogs for adoption, permitting up to three dogs or puppies per participant, following confirmation of registration from GBA animal husbandry department before bringing them to event

BECC has also invited rescuers to come forward and register their dogs for adoption. Those registering for the event can bring up to 3 dogs or puppies for the event after receiving the confirmation email from the GBA animal husbandry department about registration.

Centralised shoe purchase to offer ₹30 crore savings

The School Education Department expects to save nearly Rs 30 crore this academic year after switching back to a centralised tender system for procuring shoes and socks for 36.56 lakh government school students. Under the Vidya Vikasa scheme, footwear was initially budgeted at around Rs 104 crore, with allocations varying by class. However, a single supplier has been selected through a competitive tender at a uniform price of Rs 195 per set, significantly reducing costs. The department has directed district, taluk and school-level committees to ensure shoes and socks reach all government schools by July 31. Officials said the footwear will undergo multiple checks to ensure quality. **— BMB**

Despite fuel price drop, relief yet to reach consumers

Even as global crude oil prices have fallen sharply following the easing of tensions around the Strait of Hormuz, state-owned oil marketing companies are yet to pass the benefit to consumers. Public sector oil companies, which had raised fuel prices by around Rs 8 per litre amid supply concerns, are continuing with a wait-and-watch approach despite international crude slipping from over $120 a barrel during the conflict to around $60-70 now. Any reduction by PSU retailers is expected to lower transportation costs and, in turn, ease prices of essential commodities. The fall in global energy prices has also brought relief to commercial LPG users. **— BMB**

Computer Science gets half of state's engineering seats

Students awaiting engineering admissions have received a major boost, with Computer Science and allied branches accounting for nearly half of all seats available through the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) this year. Despite concerns that recommendations made by Dr S Sadagopan committee may lead to a reduction in Computer Science intake, the state government has allocated 41,075 seats in Computer Science and related disciplines out of the 81,494 engineering seats available under KEA for 2026-27. Overall, Karnataka has 1,60,461 engineering seats across CET and COMED-K admissions. **— BMB**

BM Trippin' Tales

Why are more Bengalureans choosing international holidays?

For many Bengalureans, an overseas holiday is no longer a once-in-a-lifetime aspiration. It has quietly become an annual ritual. From cherry blossoms in Japan and beach escapes in Bali to café hopping in Europe and shopping sprees in Dubai, international travel is witnessing a steady rise among city residents.

Travel operators say Bengaluru is one of India's strongest outbound travel markets, driven by higher disposable incomes, better air connectivity and a growing preference for experiences over material purchases. Long weekends, flexible work policies and competitive airfares have also encouraged families, young professionals and even senior citizens to pack their bags more often.

"People are travelling differently now. Earlier, they would spend months planning a single foreign trip. Today, many are booking two or even three international holidays a year. Short-haul destinations such as Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore and the UAE remain favourites, while Europe and Japan are seeing strong demand despite higher costs," said a Bengaluru-based travel consultant.

For many, travelling abroad is less about luxury and more about discovering new cultures. "I used to save for gadgets. Now I save for experiences. Every trip teaches me something new, whether it's navigating public transport in Japan or trying local food in Vietnam. Those memories stay with you far longer,"

said G Kumar, a software engineer.

Families, too, are expanding their holiday horizons. "Earlier, we would always head to Ooty or Kodagu during school vacations. Last year, we took our children to Singapore and Malaysia. Watching them experience different cultures and museums made the trip far more meaningful," said homemaker Vanitha Kumar.

Social media has also played a significant role in influencing travel choices. Pictures of snow-covered streets, hidden cafés and scenic coastal towns have inspired many to venture beyond traditional destinations. However, travel experts caution against planning holidays solely around viral locations.

"The smartest travellers today are looking beyond Instagram. They want authentic local experiences, comfortable itineraries and value for money. That's why many international destinations have become increasingly popular among Bengalureans," said a travel agent.

Industry experts believe the appetite for international travel will continue to grow as more direct flight options become available from Bengaluru and visa processes become easier for Indian travellers. While rising costs remain a concern, many residents are budgeting for travel months in advance, treating holidays as an essential investment in personal well-being rather than an occasional indulgence. For a city that thrives on ambition and fast-paced living, crossing borders has become more than just a vacation -- it is a way to pause, recharge and return home with stories worth telling. **— BMB**

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13 tour options, 6 to 14 Days

₹71,000 - 2,58,000*
35 tour options, 4 to 14 Days

₹80,000 - 97,000*
4 tour options, 8 to 10 Days

₹1,04,000 - 2,84,000*
8 tour options, 5 to 9 Days

₹82,000 - 1,85,000*
5 tour options, 5 to 8 Days

₹1,30,000 - 3,10,000*
4 tour options, 5 to 8 Days

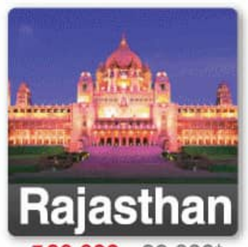
₹1,22,000 - 2,10,000*
5 tour options, 5 to 9 Days

₹45,000 - 54,000*
5 tour options, 7 to 9 Days

₹23,000 - 66,000*
11 tour options, 6 to 13 Days

₹31,000 - 86,000*
9 tour options, 5 to 9 Days

₹36,000 - 71,000*
3 tour options, 7 to 11 Days



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13 tour options, 4 to 15 Days

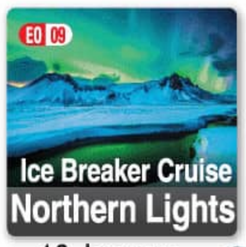
₹84,000*
1 tour option, 13 Days

8 August

19 August

19 November

10 December



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Revival finally surfaces for Hosakerehalli Lake

Three years after stalled promises, Hosakerehalli Lake's revival gains fresh momentum as civic authorities pledge phased restoration, fencing and renewed efforts to reclaim encroached land

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After years of delays and uncertainty, the long-awaited rejuvenation of Hosakerehalli Lake in west Bengaluru finally appears to be back on track, with restoration work expected to begin soon. Acting on repeated appeals from residents, officials of the Bengaluru West City Corporation (BWCC) conducted a site inspection of the lake on Thursday. Following the visit, the authorities assured residents that the neglected water body would be restored in phases.

The assurance comes after years of inaction despite sustained demands from residents. Although the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), now the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), initiated rejuvenation work more than three years ago, the project was abandoned soon after it began due to funding constraints and other issues. According to BWCC officials, Hosakerehalli Lake originally spanned 59 acres and 26 guntas and had three natural inlets. A preliminary inspection found that nearly 6.5 acres of the lake had been encroached upon, including around 0.5 acre by government agencies. Several cases relating to alleged land encroachment are also pending before the courts. The corporation now plans to submit a representation to the government seeking the removal of all encroachments to restore the lake to its original extent.

As an immediate step, BWCC will secure the lake by fencing its perimeter. Officials said they had approached the NICE authorities to barricade the stretch adjoining NICE Road, while chain-link fencing would be installed around the entire lake. Access will be restricted to two entry and exit points, one from the RR Nagar side and the other from the Padmanabhanagar side. Four Home Guards will also be deployed to provide round-the-clock security and prevent further encroachments or dumping.

Locals expect borewells to recover as officials target desilting, sewage treatment infrastructure, habitat restoration and public access, subject to financial support later this year

Residents who participated in the inspection also sought the development of a walking path around the lake. Officials said the work could be taken up immediately using the corporation's own funds, as it does not require major financial approvals.

The lake rejuvenation project was previously sanctioned by the Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority (KTCDA) at an estimated cost of Rs 12.5 crore. Although the project was launched by the BBMP in 2023, it soon came to a standstill amid funding shortages and other controversies.

BWCC has now directed officials to revise the Detailed Project Report (DPR) based on the current Schedule of Rates before restoration work resumes. "We will arrange funds based on the updated DPR. We are exploring funding through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. However, the responsibility for rejuvenating the lake will remain with BWCC. The work will be carried out in phases, including desilting, bund strengthening, fencing, acquisition of land for the sewage treatment plant (STP), and construction of the STP. Funding will come either through CSR contributions or grants from the Hon'ble Chief Minister's Office," said Dr K. V. Rajendran, Special Commissioner, Bengaluru West City Corporation.

According to officials, preliminary works such as fencing and the construction of the walking path are expected to commence within a month. The timeline for the larger rejuvenation project will depend on the availability of funds. "We are hopeful of commencing the rejuvenation work later this year," Dr Rajendran said.

Citizens hopeful

Locals say the long-pending rejuvenation of the water body will help recharge depleted groundwater and revive borewells across the locality. It will also prevent the lake from being used as a dumping ground, improving air quality and providing residents with a cleaner, healthier environment. "A healthy lake means a healthy ecosystem. It will restore biodiversity, attract birds, provide a clean public space and encourage greater community participation in civic activities," said Hosakerehalli resident Rachana Ravi.

30% down the drain, AI plugs leaks

AI-powered smart meters target hidden leaks, theft and ageing pipelines as BWSSB launches an ambitious ₹268.3 crore overhaul to curb mounting water losses across Bengaluru

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Every day, millions of litres of treated drinking water flow through the city's distribution network. Yet nearly one-third never reaches the billing system, disappearing through leakages, ageing pipelines, illegal connections and technical losses. To tackle the problem, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) is preparing to deploy one lakh Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled smart water meters to reduce water losses and improve revenue collection.

The initiative comes as Bengaluru faces rising water demand, rapid urbanisation and mounting pressure on its ageing water infrastructure. According to BWSSB estimates, around 30 per cent of the city's water is classified as 'non-revenue water', lost through leakages, theft, unauthorised connections and inaccuracies in conventional metering systems. These losses have caused significant financial setbacks while placing additional strain on limited water resources.

To address the issue, BWSSB will introduce an advanced metering system powered by AI and real-time data analytics. In the first phase, one lakh smart meters will be installed across commercial establishments, semi-commercial properties and large residential complexes, where water consumption is highest.

"The project, being implemented under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, is estimated to cost ₹268.3 crore. If successful, it will be expanded across Bengaluru, making it one of the largest smart water metering projects undertaken by an Indian city. The meters will operate using Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) technology and transmit highly accurate consumption data through a Long Range Wide Area Network (LoRaWAN)," an official said.

Officials said the smart meters will detect leakages and unauthorised usage in real time, with sensors identifying abnormal flow, pressure drops and unusual consumption. Older areas such as Majestic, Malleswaram, Chamarajpet, Basavanagudi, Vijayanagar and Rajajinagar are especially vulnerable due to ageing pipelines. The project also includes a Head-End System, Meter Data Management System, billing software and a central command centre. A pilot with 1,000 smart meters will precede the installation of the remaining 99,000. Officials said recovering even part of the 30 per cent of unaccounted-for water could significantly improve the city's supply.

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Sinkhole threat

Kadugodi

Two large sinkholes on AB Vajpayee Main Road in Kadugodi pose a safety hazard and require immediate repair.

Path blocked

Jakkur

Delayed white-topping works and encroached footpaths on Jakkur 80 Feet Road have left pedestrians without usable walkways

Walkway block

Jayanagar

Encroachment of the footpath on 33rd Cross, between 9th Main and 10th Main in 4th Block, Jayanagar, obstructs pedestrian movement.

CRIME FILES

Renukaswamy murder: 3 held for threatening witness

The Kamakshipalya Police arrested three persons for allegedly threatening a prosecution witness in the Darshan Thoogudeepa-linked Renukaswamy murder case and attempting to influence his testimony. Ironically, one of the three arrested is also a witness in the case.

The arrested accused have been identified as Suhas, and Venu and Puneeth, who is a prosecution witness. Police said Puneeth owns the SUV allegedly used to transport Renukaswamy's body from RR Nagar to a drain in Kamakshipalya. After the vehicle was seized, Puneeth was listed as a witness by the police.

Puneeth also managed a Darshan fan page called "D Company" on Facebook, while Suhas and Venu were members of the actor's fan association in Tumakuru. The trio allegedly threatened witness Sandeep through a WhatsApp call to not depose before the court. Sandeep informed the court about the threats. **-BMB**

Fake bomb threat email sparks panic at ISRO's office

A hoax bomb threat email sent to the headquarters of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Wednesday triggered panic and prompted a massive security response at the high-security facility in Antariksha Bhavan on New BEL Road.

According to police, the email, received by ISRO staff shortly after lunch, claimed that explosives had been planted inside the headquarters and that a blast would be carried out. Personnel from the police and the Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad (BDDS) rushed to the spot and immediately evacuated the premises. A thorough inspection of the entire building was conducted, but no suspicious objects or explosives were found. .

Sanjay Nagar Police Station police have registered a case based on a complaint filed by an ISRO officer. **-BMB**

Man arrested for gold chain theft

Kodigehalli Police Station officers have arrested one person for stealing a gold chain weighing about 8.5 grams, along with two two-wheelers amounting to Rs 1.50 lakh. The complainant, a resident of Canara Bank Layout,said their son had organised a party at the house on June 24. The idol in the puja room had a gold chain around its neck. Several days after the event, the family noticed that the chain was no longer around the idol's neck.

The complainant suspected their guests and a regular house help. Police investigation led to one of the friends of the victim's son. One of the accused was traced and nabbed near his residence at Kanakadasa Nagar, Mysuru.

The accused revealed that he had pledged the stolen gold chain at Sunkadakatte. Police recovered the gold chain on June 16. **-BMB**

House break and theft accused held

A resident of Bikasipura told Kumaraswamy Police Station officers that while he was away at his hometown, his house had been burgled. When he returned, he found the house door broken and gold jewellery and cash stolen.

Intensive police investigation led the officials to one accused, who had been previously arrested, near Hejjala Railway Station on June 19.

From the accused, police recovered 24 grams of gold jewellery and 84 grams of fake gold jewellery. On the same day, the Court ordered 12 days of police custody for the accused. **-BMB**

Health official held in Lokayukta trap over bribe

A senior official attached to the Department of Health and Family Welfare was caught allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹15,000 by the Karnataka Lokayukta Police on Wednesday while processing a licence approval under the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (KPME) Act.

The accused has been identified as Dr. Bhujabali D Yalagudri (54), District Leprosy Officer of Bangalore Urban district.

According to Lokayukta officials, the complainant, Dr. Muffassir Ahmed Muzammil (25), a Unani practitioner residing in HBR Layout, had approached the officer seeking approval for his KPME licence application. Dr. Yalagudri allegedly demanded ₹30,000 to sign and clear the application. Unwilling to pay the bribe, the complainant approached the Karnataka Lokayukta and lodged a formal complaint.

Based on the complaint, Lokayukta Police conducted a trap operation. The officer was allegedly caught red-handed while accepting 15,000, said to be the first instalment of the total bribe amount. **-BMB**

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Tusk trouble uncovers forest's hidden gaps

Tusker rescue exposes hidden breaches as Karnataka Forest Department uncovers illegal barricade openings, prompting urgent action to secure sanctuary boundaries and prevent mishaps

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A survey conducted by the Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) following the rescue of a 22-year-old tusker trapped between railway barricades in the Muggur Range near Kanakapura on July 1 has revealed another unauthorised gap in the fencing surrounding the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary. The elephant became trapped between the rail barricades on Tuesday after apparently attempting to cross into the sanctuary in search of food. It was rescued unharmed following a four-hour operation involving forest personnel, veterinarians and technical staff, and was later safely guided back into the forest. The department continued to monitor the animal's movements until Wednesday evening.

In the wake of the incident, the department ordered a boundary perambulation of the entire sanctuary to identify vulnerable stretches along the rail barricades. The inspection uncovered two unauthorised gaps in the barricades, including the one where the elephant became trapped. According to forest officials, the openings had been created under pressure from local villagers to facilitate the movement of cattle for grazing. "Such gaps are not part of the approved design of the rail barricades. The opening where the elephant became trapped had been left by field staff under pressure from villagers. Following the incident, we inspected the entire boundary of the sanctuary and identified another similar gap, which has now been securely sealed. The sanctuary boundary is now fully secured," said Kumar Pushkar, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden of Karnataka.

Officials believe the tusker attempted to squeeze through the opening while searching for food and became wedged between the metal barricades. Emphasising that such lapses cannot be allowed, Pushkar said the issue would be raised during the department's upcoming review meeting.

"Keeping this incident in mind, I will raise the issue with all forest divisions during the next review meeting. We will ensure that if any such openings are found elsewhere, they are immediately sealed," he said. Wildlife experts have also called for a comprehensive inspection of rail barricades across elephant habitats. Ramesh Belagere of the Foundation for Ecology and Education Development said the stretch where the incident occurred is frequently used by villagers for cattle grazing and requires regular monitoring. "Such gaps can be extremely dangerous and even fatal for elephants. In this case, the animal's hind leg was badly trapped. Had there been any sharp edges on the barricade, it could have suffered severe injuries. The Forest Department should not yield to pressure from villagers and must ensure that barricades are maintained in accordance with the approved specifications," Belagere said.

Drive allegedly violates several provisions of Street Vendors Act

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

vehicles lined the footpath stretch in-front of the Vijayanagar police station late Thursday evening as well.

A frequent visitor to the market in Vijayanagar said, "The atmosphere of the area has completely changed and the selective targeting of vulnerable street vendors is clearly visible. The Palika Bazaar venture has also not turned out to be fruitful. No real alternative solutions or relief has been provided to them while the rich and the police department itself continues to encroach on the footpath." Another passerby told Bangalore Mirror that the officials must focus on coming up with a comprehensive plan that benefits all stakeholders instead of abruptly attacking the livelihoods of street vendors only. While this was the scene in Vijayanagar, elsewhere in the city too the footpath encroachment eviction drives have targeted just the vendors.

In a memorandum addressed to Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Thursday, the Beedhi Vyaparigala Okkuta (Street Vendors' Union) said it supported the government's objective of creating safe, wide and accessible footpaths, but objected to the manner in which the eviction drive was being carried out. The union argued that street vendors are legitimate users of public spaces under the Street Vendors Act and cannot be treated as encroachers. It said nearly two lakh street vendors in Bengaluru provide affordable vegetables, fruits, flowers, food and other essentials to working- and middle-class residents, and many have been surveyed by civic authorities or received benefits under the PM-SVANidhi scheme.

Citing Supreme Court and Karnataka High Court judgments, the union contended that the right to carry on street vending has been recognised as a fundamental right and that authorities are required to balance the interests of pedestrians and vendors rather than treat them as competing groups. It also maintained that vendors contribute to safer and more vibrant public spaces while serving vulnerable sections of society.

The memorandum alleged that the eviction drive violated several provisions of the Street Vendors Act. According to the union, Section 3(3) prohibits eviction until a survey is completed and certificates of vending are issued to all eligible vendors. It claimed that while a survey conducted between October 2024 and February 2025 identified around 34,000 vendors, thousands of others were left out despite more than 70,000 beneficiaries receiving PM-SVANidhi loans.

The union further alleged that the government had declared major roads as no-vending zones without the recommendation of Town Vending Committees, whose terms expired in 2023 and are yet to be reconstituted. It also claimed that vendors in areas such as Jayanagar, Vijayanagar, Marathahalli and Malleswaram were removed without the mandatory 30-day notice prescribed under Section 18 of the Act.

It also accused civic authorities of seizing carts, tables and other goods without issuing notices, inventories or receipts, alleging that such actions violated Section 19 of the Act.

The union urged the Congress government to honour its commitment to protecting street vendors, noting that the 2014 legislation was enacted under a Congress-led government at the Centre. It also referred to assurances made by senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi before the 2023 Karnataka Assembly elections regarding the protection of vendors' rights.

Among its demands, the union called for reinstating evicted vendors at their original locations or nearby alternative sites, returning confiscated goods, conducting a comprehensive survey and issuing vending certificates to all eligible vendors, reconstituting Town Vending Committees, ending illegal evictions and widening footpaths instead of displacing vendors. It also sought action against illegal parking and other encroachments on footpaths.

Starting trouble hits SIR enumeration process

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

whose current mobile numbers are not updated in Aadhaar records found themselves unable to proceed. One resident, who successfully completed the online process on Thursday, said, "I did it successfully around 2 pm today. It was simple, easy and straightforward. It would be even better if they did away with the captcha codes." The resident explained that the form requires details including the EPIC (Elector's Photo Identity Card) number, Aadhaar number, father's name, mother's name and a photograph upload, followed by Aadhaar-based authentication.

Those who managed to complete the online process also noted that the experience was smoother on desktop computers than on mobile phones. According to them, certain fields on mobile devices do not adequately accommodate longer names, making data entry cumbersome.

Meanwhile, uncertainty over the validity of online submissions has become a major concern. Several residents said they sought clarification from BLOs after submitting their forms digitally. According to them, some officials advised that the physical forms should still be filled and handed over despite the online submission.

A resident from Frazer Town expressed concern over the lack of uniform communication. "There should be clarity given to the BLO officers regarding what is authenticated. Clear instructions should be put on social media through official handles so that citizens can get transparency and clarity. Right now people are so confused. In fact, some BLO officers did not know about the online forms," the resident said.

Similar concerns were raised on social media. One X user wrote that after completing the form online, they were still asked to fill and submit a physical copy. "If offline submission is mandatory, what is the purpose of the online process? The forms are also only in Kannada. It would have been far more practical to provide them in both Kannada and English, especially in a diverse state like Karnataka," the user stated.

The post further noted that the biggest challenge was the lack of clarity, with different BLOs following different approaches. Some had created WhatsApp groups, others asked residents to collect forms, while some directed voters to visit them in person.

The official social media handle of the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka, replied to the post and clarified that citizens who have already submitted their enumeration forms online do not need to submit them again offline.

Citizen representatives from several Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) held an online interaction with electoral officials from the Bommanahalli Assembly constituency to seek clarity on concerns around the process.

Electoral officials assured participants that BLOs would be instructed to carry English reference forms along with them during their visits. Officials also indicated that English versions of the forms could be made available through official social media channels, allowing residents to refer to them while filling out the Kannada forms. Vinu Jade, a citizen, said he had received information from election officials regarding online submissions. "BLO supervisors just now informed me that even if you have submitted online, proof of submission along with proof of identity must be physically given to the BLO when they visit your house, or otherwise the enumeration form will be held up. There is a lot of confusion in communication. It is better to still take the enumeration form and keep it with you," he said.

Shyam Padhi, a resident of Whitefield, pointed out that several voters were unable to locate their details in the 2002 electoral rolls despite having lived in Bengaluru for decades.

"Many locals who have been here for 30 to 40 years are not finding their details in the 2002 list. Similarly, all areas of Bengaluru that were later declared urban areas, but were not under BBMP, BDA or recognised residential zones in or before 2002, are facing difficulties in tracing their records," he said. Padhi also noted that the distribution of enumeration forms has been uneven across localities. "The forms have not yet reached several apartment complexes. On ECC Road, many residents are still waiting to receive them, while BLOs are simultaneously expecting offline documents to be submitted at the earliest. The forms must be distributed quickly so that residents can complete them and return them within the stipulated time," he added.

Poornima Shetty, President of the United RWA of Konena Agrahara and initiator of Mission 100% Voting, said the success of the voter verification exercise depends on clear communication, consistent implementation and active citizen participation. She called for a single verified source of information containing updates, FAQs, forms and official instructions, greater involvement of RWAs and citizen volunteers in assisting BLOs, and WhatsApp communities linking election officials, BLOs and residents to address queries and misinformation.

Quarry mishap claims seven migrant workers' lives

Following incident, authorities initiate action against quarry operators, while investigations are ongoing to establish exact cause and assess legality of quarry operations

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In a shocking incident, seven migrant workers were killed and five others injured when a massive rock slipped and fell on a tractor at a quarry in Bengaluru South on Thursday morning.

Most of the victims are believed to have migrated from other regions in search of livelihood. According to reports, the workers had left home for duty at 6 am and the incident occurred sometime around 7.30 am. Heartbroken women were seen grieving for their family members lost in the mishap. Jurisdictional police, upon receiving information, rushed to the spot and shifted the injured to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Expressing grief over the death of the labourers, Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said that necessary action would be taken after official reports are received. "Police officials and officers from the Mines and Geology Department have visited the accident spot. It is learnt the mishap was not due to blasting at the quarry. Action against the quarry owner will be taken after receiving the information on whether the quarry is legal or illegal. The authorities will investigate whether the guidelines are followed at the quarry," he said.

Deputy Chief Minister Dr G Parameshwara said the government will take measures to end the menace of illegal quarrying in the state. "There are some illegal quarries in the state. We have to stop illegal quarrying," he said.

Earlier, Yeshwanthpur MLA ST Somashekar said an eighth worker succumbed to injuries at a hospital. "I want the government to make the quarry owner pay compensation of Rs 1 crore to each of the deceased persons. All these years, quarry owners made a lot of money. Let them pay compensation to the victims' families," the MLA said.

Speaking with media persons, Mines and Geology Department Director Rangappa S said that he had spoken with the quarry owner regarding compensation, suggesting Rs 10 lakh for the families of those killed and Rs 5 lakh for the injured.

Rescue operations underway at stone quarry; Crushed tractors and debris left at site; Family members grieving death of workers

Calls for compensation to families of deceased and injured workers grow, with demand for swift relief measures and accountability

Expressing sympathy to the victims' families, D Siddaraju, President of Union of Karnataka Quarry and Stone Crushers Owners' Association, said the quarry maintained by Cauvery Crushers is not illegal. "I offer my condolences to the deceased families. I want the authorities to give compensation to the families from the District Mineral Foundation, a non-profit statutory body funded by mandatory mining lease contributions. All the quarry owners have to make contributions to the District Mineral Foundation. It is meant for giving compensation to the workers killed or injured while working in quarries," Siddaraju said.

Federation of Karnataka Quarry and Stone Crusher Owners' Association President Ravindra Shetty said that around 10 per cent of quarrying in the state is illegal. "Our Federation will not support those who indulge in illegal quarrying," he said.

Action initiated against accused

According to police, a case has been registered under Sections 105, 125(a), 324(5) and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, based on a complaint by Gopikrishnan T.

According to the complaint filed, labourers were working at a stone quarry located in Survey No 29 of Huluvenahalli village using tractors, compressors and excavators for drilling operations. During the work, massive rocks allegedly rolled down from the adjacent Basaveshwara Quarry and crashed onto the workers and four tractor compressors, leaving little time for them to escape. The seven deceased workers suffered severe injuries to the head, arms and legs after being crushed under the falling rocks.

The accused have been identified as D Anandaswamy, Udayashankar, Pandu, Tirupathi, and other individuals responsible for quarry operations at Basaveshwara Stone Quarry and the adjoining SR Udayashankar Stone Quarry in Huluvenahalli village.

Accused denied relief in illegal fund diversion case

The Karnataka High Court refused to quash a criminal case registered against six individuals accused of illegally routing more than Rs 92.55 crore in foreign funds into India, with investigators alleging that part of the money reached Maoist-affected regions in Chhattisgarh and Assam.

Dismissing two petitions challenging the FIR, Justice M Nagaprasanna observed that clandestine financing of extremist organisations poses one of the most serious threats to national security. The court said extremist funding is dangerous not merely because of the movement of money, but because it enables organised violence and undermines public safety and national unity if left unchecked.

The FIR, registered at Bengaluru's Kothanur Police Station on June 11, names Micah Mark, Jonathan S Rajan, Ajit Varghese Mathai, Varghese Chacko, Bablu Kurmi and Supreme Joy. They have been booked for offences including cheating, criminal conspiracy, forgery, destruction of evidence and violations of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). The case stems from a complaint filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), which alleged that The Timothy Initiative (TTI), an organisation headquartered in Raleigh, North Carolina, channelled foreign funds into India through US-issued debit cards. According to the agency, cash was withdrawn from ATMs across Karnataka, Chhattisgarh and Assam in violation of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) and the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA).

The agency alleged that the debit cards were issued under the fictitious name "Santosh Kumar". Following ED searches, TTI's online portal reportedly became inaccessible from India, while digital banking records were allegedly erased. The agency further claimed that its investigation traced withdrawals in Dhamtari, a Maoist-affected district in Chhattisgarh, where foreign debit cards were allegedly used at the Vijaya Paleja branch ATM of a cooperative bank.

Order on withdrawal of cases halted

The Karnataka High Court on Thursday stayed the operation of a state government order directing public prosecutors to withdraw 52 criminal cases registered against politicians and political workers across Karnataka.

A division bench of Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice KS Hemalekha passed the interim order while hearing a public interest litigation filed by Bengaluru-based advocate Girish Bharadwaj challenging the May 27 government order.

The bench also directed the State and the Department of Prosecutions to file their responses before the next date of hearing.

The impugned government order had called upon public prosecutors to withdraw 52 criminal cases registered at various police stations by invoking Section 321 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, which deals with withdrawal from prosecution.

Doctor cleared of forgery allegations

The Karnataka High Court on Thursday quashed criminal proceedings initiated against a Bengaluru-based oncologist over allegations that he forged a signature on an experience certificate, observing that doctors should not be made scapegoats in private disputes between hospitals.

Justice M Nagaprasanna, while allowing the petition filed by oncologist Dr Somashekar SP, criticised the criminal prosecution of a doctor who had served Manipal Hospital for nearly two decades. The court remarked that the hospital ought to have taken a more magnanimous approach instead of pursuing criminal action against a long-serving employee. Allowing the petition, the court found it particularly troubling that the hospital where the petitioner had worked for more than 20 years had accused him of forging an experience certificate that he had not even sought. **–BMB**

citi

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT
Unclaimed Funds - Legacy Consumer Business

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Email : serviceindia@citi.com
Website : https://www.citigroup.com/global/about-us/global-presence/india

Complaint against Rajajinagar MLA over biased contracts

A complaint was lodged with the Karnataka Lokayukta on Thursday against Rajajinagar MLA S Suresh Kumar, alleging irregularities in the awarding of contracts to contractors in violation of prescribed norms.

Surya Mukundaraj, an advocate, lodged the complaint, alleging that Suresh Kumar used his influence to secure contracts for a select group of contractors. Speaking to the media after filing the complaint, Mukundaraj said, "The funds allocated under the Chief Minister Infrastructure Grants were diverted to development works in parks and other locations instead of being used to upgrade roads in Rajajinagar. Six major contracts awarded between 2020 and 2026 were allegedly given to Suresh Kumar's benami contractors. I want the Karnataka Lokayukta to order an investigation into these irregularities," Mukundaraj said.

Suresh Kumar dismissed the allegations. "The complaint lodged with the Lokayukta is politically motivated and is an attempt to defame me. I will respond to the allegations made in the complaint within two days. I will request the Lokayukta to investigate the complainant's motive," Suresh Kumar said.

He added that he had been in politics since 1983 and that the people of Rajajinagar were aware of the development works undertaken during his tenure, not only as an MLA but also as a BBMP corporator. "I have been in politics for more than four decades. I have never interfered in contract works, either directly or indirectly. I do not have the mindset to cause losses to the civic body or the State government," the MLA said.

Be extra cautious about mangoes now

With the local mango season drawing to a close, fruit markets are now flooded with truckloads of mangoes arriving daily from different districts of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. However, alongside the fresh supply, there is growing concern over the alleged use of banned calcium carbide to artificially ripen the fruit. Traders and consumers claim that a significant quantity of mangoes entering the city's wholesale and retail markets has been chemically ripened, while inadequate inspections by the Food Safety Department have raised concerns about consumer safety.

Sources said that the use of calcium carbide to ripen fruit is prohibited under food safety regulations; only controlled ethylene gas treatment is permitted. Health experts warn that when calcium carbide reacts with moisture, it releases acetylene gas, which hastens ripening while leaving behind calcium hydroxide residue. Impure calcium carbide may also contain traces of arsenic and phosphorus, chemicals linked to serious health risks. Consumption of such fruit can cause stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhoea, skin allergies, irritation of the mouth and throat, headaches, dizziness, insomnia and memory problems. Prolonged exposure has also been associated with an increased risk of cancer.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Kavya (Old Name), D/o Prakash Raghavendra, aged about 29 Yrs, presently residing at Flat No. G-2, 75, Sai Shiv Shakthi Residency, Kanaka Layout 3rd Stage, Subramanya pura, Bangalore - 560 061 hereby declare that my name has been changed to KAVYA BHAT (New Name) vide affidavit dated 30-06-2026 sworn before Advocate and Notary L. Puttaraju.

I, PREETHI SHANKAR, (Old Name) W/o. Nagaraj Ramachandra Naidu, R/at No.694, 2nd Cross, Ashok Nagar, BSK 1st Stage Bangalore-560050 have changed my name to PREETHI NAGARAJ (New Name) vide affidavit dt:02.07.2026 before Notary Lakshmaiah Bangalore.

I, Sindu M Alias Sindu Manivannan D/o Manivannan R/o New No. 27/1, Old No.178/1, Someshwarappa, 4th Cross, 4th Main Road, Cambridge Layout, Halasuru, Bangalore, Karnataka 560008. Changed my name as Sindhu M for all future purposes

I, NAIK RUPA MOHAN (Old Name) R/at No.131, Mahalasa wada Mahalasa Road Kamadhenu Karwar Uttar Kannada- 581307 have changed my name to RADHA MANJUNATH MHALSEKAR (New Name) for all purposes,

I, MOHAMMED GHOUSE CHANNARAYPATNA JALEEL R/o #54 Ward 13th Cross Hayath Mohalla Chanarayapatna Hassan-573116 have changed my name to MOHAMMED GHOUSE for all Purposes.

I, SAVITHA DEVIDAS MAHALE, (Old Name), R/at No. Hig 103 New KHB Colony Hubbuwada, Karwar, Uttara Kannada-581301 have changed my name to DIVYA DARASHAN SHANBHAG (New Name) for all purposes.

I, Jassica R/o Killankera, Yadgir Karnataka. I have changed my name from Jassica to Jassica Dodmani vide sworn before notary D Mallikarjuna dated 30.06.2026.

I, BHIVARAM AGLECHA R/o #11, 4th Cross, Shivanandanagar Madhuranagar B'lore-560072 have changed my name to BHIVARAM AGLECHA SESHARAM for all purposes.

I, MOHAMAD HABEEBUR RAHAMAN R/o #22/1 F Street Medical College East Kalasipalyam B'lore- 560002 have changed my name to MOHAMMED HABEEB UR RAHAMAN for all purposes.

I Lakshmamma W/o Rangaram -aiah Mangala Maggirangayya R/o No 299 Near Suzuki Show Room Venkatala Yelahanka B'luru-560064 have changed my name to Lakshamamma for all purposes

I, B VEENA BAI W/o Shantilal Porwal R/o #61, Rama Iyengar Road VV Puram B'lore- 560004 have changed my name to S VEENA BAI PORWAL for all purposes.

I, MANASA PREMKUMAR R/o 186/33 Ground Floor White City Layout Seegehalli B'lore-560049 have changed my name to MANASA SUBRAMANYAM for all purposes.

I KHUSHNAAZ SYED IRFAN R/@ No 60/1-3 6th Cross New Gurrappanpalya Bangalore-560029 has changed my name to KHUSHNAAZ for all purposes

REMEMBRANCE
SHARING MEMORIES

Remembrance

K V BHAT

03-July-2024

2 years have passed by but you are still with us in our thoughts, actions, dreams and daily dialogues. Missing you a lot!!. Pls do come in our dreams and meet us.
Ashok, Preethi, Amrhutha, Axatha, Abhayarama.

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HEALTH TIP: Drink enough water throughout the day, and include coconut water, fresh juices, and electrolyte fluids to prevent dehydration

After your meal, chew on some gum for ten minutes as one of the home remedies for indigestion

WHAT'S YOUR POISON?

Alcohol is one of the most dangerous drugs, yet its presence is ubiquitous

Few substances are as deeply woven into everyday life as alcohol. It is a fixture at holiday celebrations, work-related social gatherings, sporting events, airports, and brunch or dinner tables.

Yet alcohol contributes to millions of deaths globally each year and is linked to cancer, liver disease, unintentional accidents, violence and, importantly, dependence and addiction. Despite this, the disconnect between alcohol's cultural role and its serious health burden is striking.

Although drinking patterns vary substantially across countries, an estimated 2.3 billion people worldwide consume alcohol.

As a physician working in addiction medicine, I regularly care for patients whose alcohol use affects nearly every organ system. It is often not until these patients end up admitted to the hospital that they learn the impact of alcohol on various parts of their body besides their liver.

No such thing as a 'safe' amount

Newer evidence challenges assumptions about what was long considered "safe drinking." Even moderate drinking carries risk and is not as harmless as people, including experts, once thought.

Many people associate alcohol risk primarily with addiction or legal complications such as driving while intoxicated. However, its effects extend far beyond this, into nearly every aspect of a person's well-being.

While alcohol may transiently improve mood and ease social anxiety, long-term alcohol use can lead to a worsening of mood, cognition and sleep, which can further compound use.

A 2021 literature review found that consuming approximately two standard drinks roughly doubles the odds of sustaining both motor vehicle and non-motor vehicle injuries. The review also found that heavy episodic (binge) drinking can increase the risk of injury by 20- to 50-fold, depending on the amount of alcohol consumed and the type of injury. While alcohol's effects on the liver are well known, it can also lead to gastrointestinal complications and heart disease

The World Health Organization estimates that 2.6 million deaths each year are attributable to alcohol, accounting for nearly 1 in every 20 deaths worldwide.

Mixed messaging around alcohol and cancer

While many people recognise the risks of alcohol addiction, people are generally much less aware of the links between alcohol use and cancer risk.

The World Health Organization classifies alcohol as a Group 1 carcinogen, – the same category as tobacco and asbestos. In other words, these are agents classified as having sufficient evidence that they cause cancer in humans.

In 2025, a U.S. Surgeon General advisory emphasized that alcohol increases the risk of at least seven cancers and called for updated warning labels. It concluded that alcohol increases an individual's risk of developing seven types of cancer, including cancers of the breast, colorectal, liver, oral, esophagus and larynx.

The relationship between alcohol and cancer is nuanced. Throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, observational studies suggested that moderate alcohol consumption might offer cardiovascular benefits.

Over the past decade, however, higher-quality studies have challenged those findings, suggesting that much of the apparent benefit may have reflected differences in the health and lifestyles of moderate drinkers rather than a protective effect of alcohol itself.

According to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, current evidence increasingly suggests that even low levels of alcohol may increase cancer risk.

The guidelines acknowledge that adults should "consume less alcohol for better overall health." However, the most recent version of the guidelines for 2025-2030, updated in January 2026, removed the previous recommendation to limit intake to no more than one drink per day for women and two for men. It also omitted explicit discussion of alcohol's links to cancer.

These changes have drawn criticism from public health experts, who argue that the revised language downplays the growing evidence of alcohol-related harms and provides less specific guidance to consumers. Against this backdrop, Dr. Mehmet Oz, Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, characterized alcohol as a "social lubricant" that brings people together, rather than emphasizing its well-established health risks.

That may be true physiologically, at least temporarily, but it obscures the fact that relying on alcohol as a social lubricant can lead to chemical and psychological dependency. In my view, statements to that effect are shortsighted, prioritizing short-term social effects over more insidious and long-term issues, including addiction.

A seismic cultural shift

While many dangerous mind-altering substances are hidden from public perception, alcohol is often placed at the center of it – a trend that shows no sign of changing imminently.

Further, large companies often profit from ads that appeal to young people.

Although alcohol consumption has modestly declined in recent years, it remains deeply embedded in social life in ways cigarette smoking no longer is.

People often assume that if a substance is legal, common and widely socially accepted, as well as encouraged, then it must also be safe. But public health history suggests those assumptions can and should change.

(Emma Fenske, Oregon Health & Science University, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Researchers explore if ultrasound can kill oral cancer cells

Oral cancer is a major health challenge in India, where tobacco and areca nut use contribute substantially to the disease burden. Despite advances in surgery, chemotherapy, and radiotherapy, treatment remains difficult because current approaches can damage healthy tissues along with cancer cells, often affecting patients' quality of life.

In a new study, researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), in collaboration with clinicians at MS Ramaiah Medical College and Hospitals, explored whether low-frequency ultrasound mechanical stimulation could selectively kill oral cancer cells.

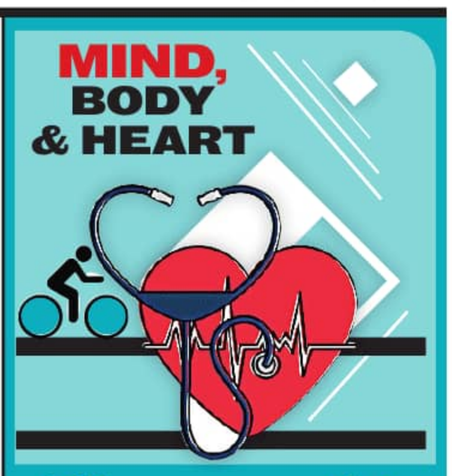
Since ultrasound is non-invasive and already approved for various medical uses, these findings suggest that ultrasound mechanostimulation could exploit the mechanical weakness of oral cancer cells. Researchers say that with further validation in advanced preclinical models, this approach may help develop safer, more targeted treatment strategies for oral cancer and potentially other easily accessible cancers such as breast and skin cancers.

The team worked with patient-derived oral tumour samples that better reflect variations among Indian patients.

They found that oral cancer cells are surprisingly vulnerable to the moderate mechanical stimulations produced by ultrasound. This vulnerability appears to arise from reduced levels of Tropomyosin 2.1, a mechanosensory protein that helps body cells sense and withstand physiologically relevant mechanical stimulation. When exposed to ultrasound-driven mechanical stimulation, oral cancer cells underwent selective cell death, while healthy oral epithelial cells remained unharmed, a press statement from IISc explained.

"The novelty of this study lies in showing how ultrasound mechanostimulation can selectively target oral cancer cells by exploiting their mechanical weakness," says Ajay Tijore, Assistant Professor at the Department of Bioengineering, IISc, and corresponding author.

—BMB



All you need to know about...

De-escalation during fights

Pause before reacting
Silence, even for a breath, can prevent an argument from fully forming. That brief pause creates space between impulse and intention, allowing you to respond rather than react. Often, what feels like anger is fear wearing a louder voice; and recognizing that distinction changes everything.

No blame game
Stress tempts us into language that sounds accusatory. Shifting from "You never listen" to "I'm feeling overwhelmed and need a moment" softens the exchange without diluting your truth. Vulnerability, when expressed with care, doesn't weaken your position; but steadies it.

Try to lower your frequency
Conflict escalates when we mirror emotional volume. Choosing calm is not withdrawal; it is authority. A measured tone can quietly reset the room. Often, the more grounded and sympathetic energy prevails, not the louder one.

Lead with compassion
Stress makes us defensive, but a moment of compassion grounds us into reality. Budge from "How could you say that?" to "What made you feel this way?" It reflects your emotional mindfulness and that you want understanding, not victory.

No need to have the last word
Not getting involved in futile arguments is the best way to self-preservation. Clasping to the final word keeps you hitched to the strain. Simply letting go of a conversation that doesn't serve your purpose is the real strength.

Apologise with sincerity
The sincerest way to conclude an argument is apologising for your tone and words that may have intentionally or unintentionally hurt the other person. Accepting that the aggression was rooted in stress, not from personal resentments. A small, heartfelt apology goes a long way in building mutual trust and understanding. —Femina

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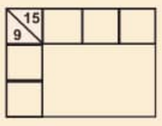
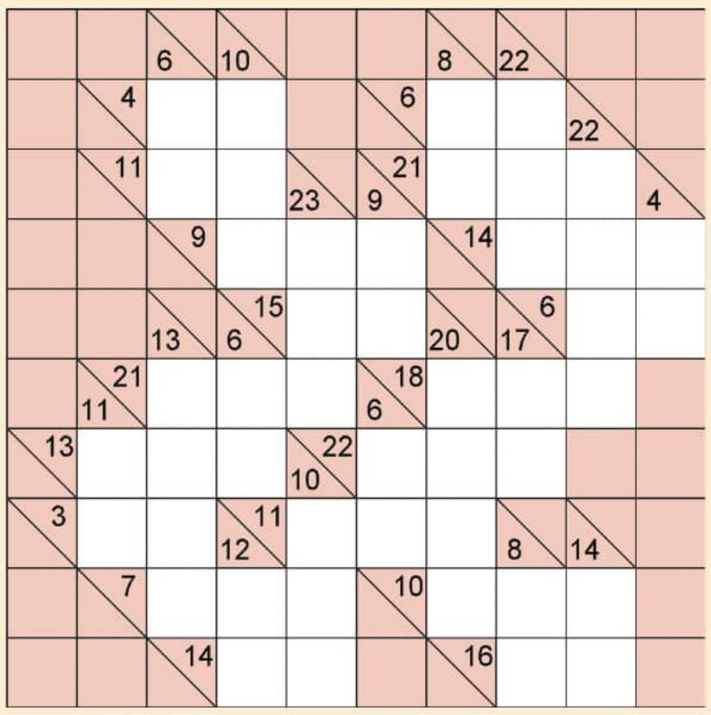
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

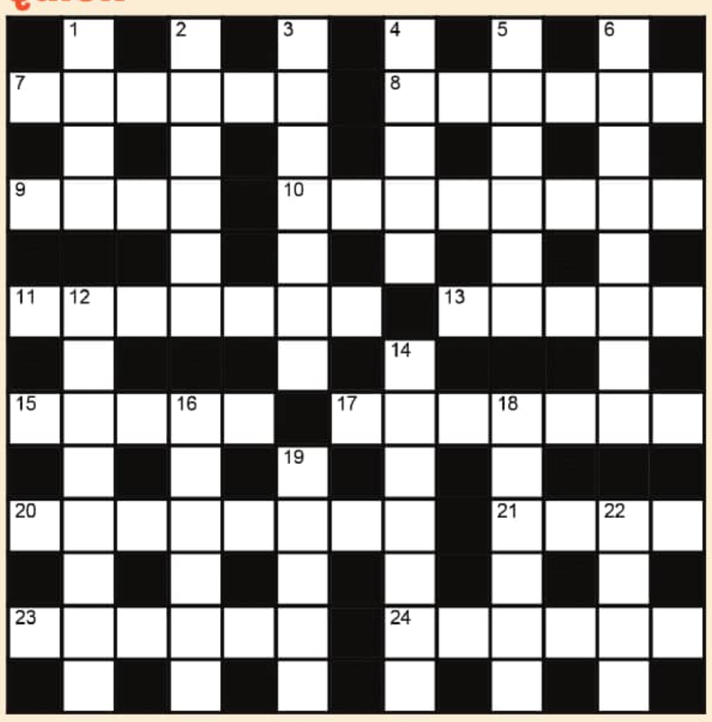
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Respect (6)
8 ___ show : a solo effort ? (3-3)
9 Type of TV input (4)
10 Very demanding (8)
11 Is able to spare? (7)
13 Address or welcome (5)
15 Bottoms of shoes or feet (5)
17 Mount ____ : it's conquest was first done by Sherpa Tenzing (7)
20 The Karate sticks? (8)
21 Dorothy's dog! (4)
23 Fixed or resolute (6)
24 Tree-lined road (6)

DOWN

1 Employed (4)
2 Arsenal and Spain's Mikel ___ (6)
3 Is a threat or a menace (7)
4 Precious stone (5)
5 Note or message (6)
6 Rambles (8)
12 Often, habitual or recurring (8)
14 Bangalore's famous food street (2,5)
16 Gym storage (6)
18 Deserted the side (6)
19 Divisions (5)
22 Illegal ticket seller (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: E EQUALS G

YTL YP AVL WZDQAYDW YP B NYWCTE WAGLBF CW B AKGTYXLG YP AYQ LILOKACXLW. CA'W B GLXYNXCTE RYYG.

Linemaro

Is your name sunshine? You are in my soul today

Mind chow

It is the passion that is in a kiss that gives to it its sweetness; it is the affection in a kiss that sanctifies it

Joke of the day

Young men: If you attend this crap with friends who admire it, tactfully inform them they are idiots. Young women: If your date likes this movie, tell him you've been thinking it over, and you think you should consider spending some time apart. – Roger Ebert's review of 'Battle: Los Angeles'

Loop

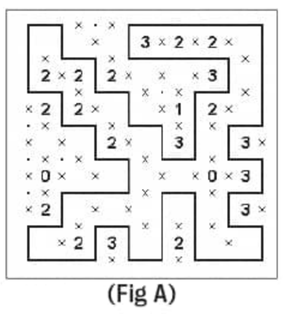
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

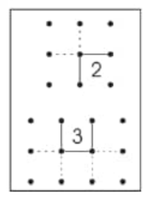
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

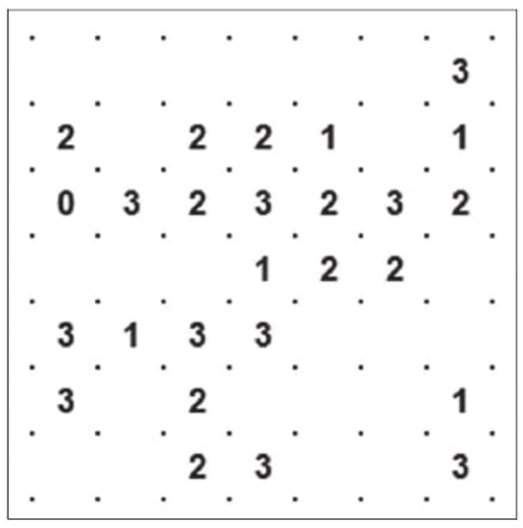
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



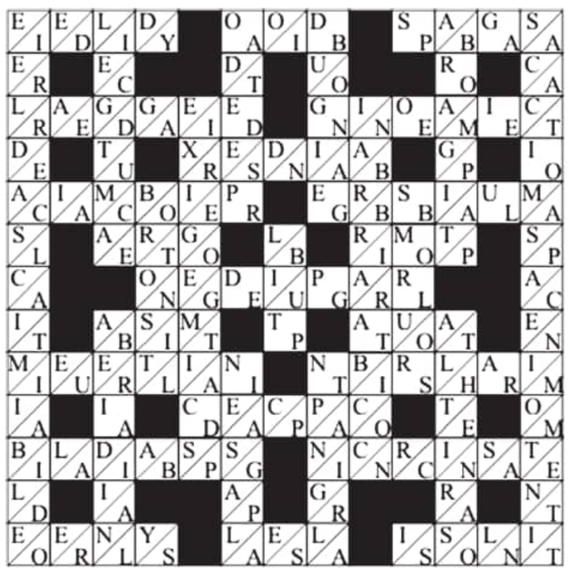
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1 D	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

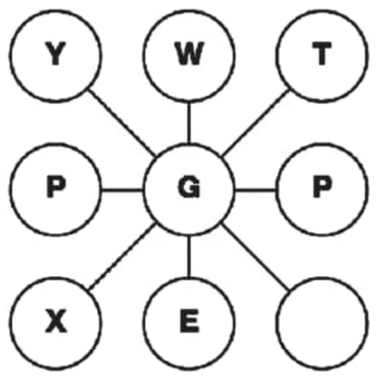
1 Badge; 6 I a mum; 7 Re Cur; 8 E croc; 9 Ark as

DOWN

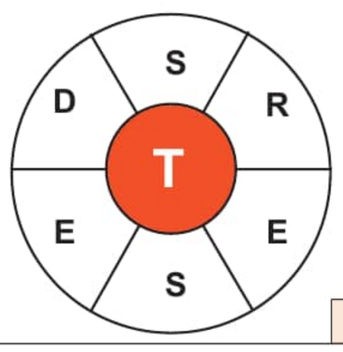
1 Rudra; 2 Me ere; 3 AC cab; 4 U Mack; 5 Go sir

Mensapuzzle

Which letter goes in the empty circle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

09 Average; 10 Good; 12 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

3	6		4					
		5		6		9		
	2				1			4
2				1	6			8
		4				1		
8			9	5				2
7			5				1	
		1		3		4		
					2		3	9

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 20
3 5 9 9

Medium = 32
1 3 5 6

Hard = 60
4 4 5 9

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

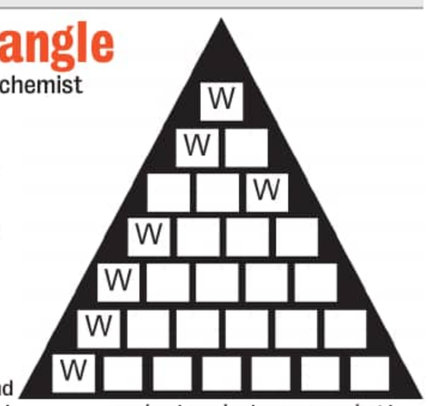
Differences: 1. Lapel is different. 2. Clipboard is shorter. 3. Boy's bag is smaller. 4. Boy's hand is not shown. 5. Man's tie is missing. 6. Sign is larger.

Riddler

What is the next number in the series: 38,815; 5,544; 791; 112; ?

Alpha triangle

1 Tungsten for the chemist
2 Plural of I
3 Condensation
4 Expansive
5 Dined's partner?
6 ___it: ad-libbed
7 Joining together by heating



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

YOU CAN'T LET HIM GO OFF ON HIS OWN!
EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO FIND THEMSELVES!
HE'S JUST A BABY! HE'S NOT PREPARED TO FACE THE WORLD!
10-1
HE PASSED KINDERGARTEN SANDBOX WITH A C PLUS!
popeye.com
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Bizarrotrip

Okay, people, let's get started on our orientation. I have 666 PowerPoint slides to cover.
Welcome to Hell
presented by Satan
Wayno & Piraro 2-3-23-26
Dist. by King Features
BIZARRO.COM
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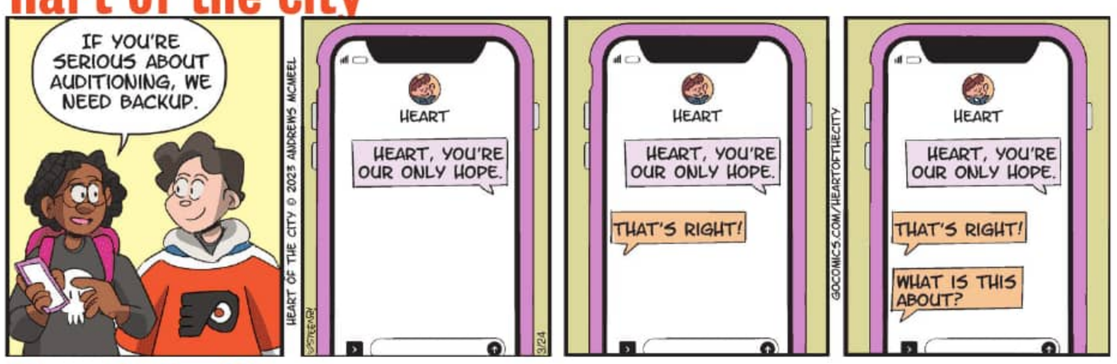
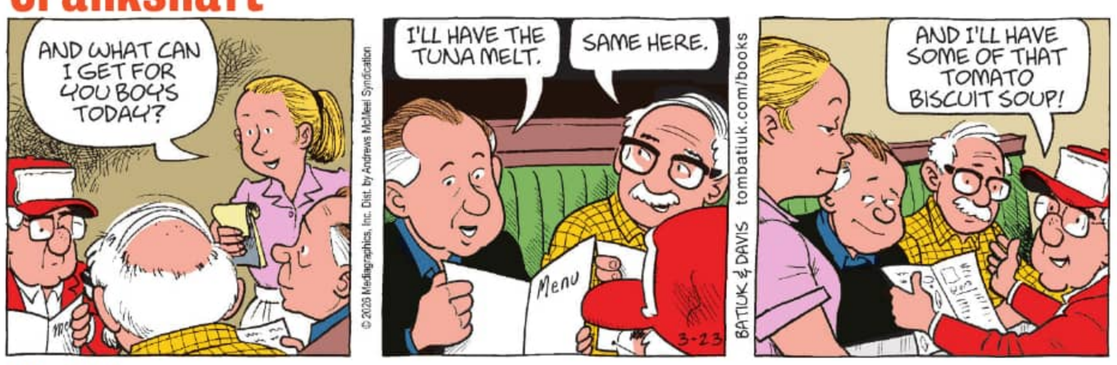
Diamond Lil

Hart of the city



Crankshaft


AND WHAT CAN I GET FOR YOU BOYS TODAY?
I'LL HAVE THE TUNA MELT.
SAME HERE.
Menu
3-23
AND I'LL HAVE SOME OF THAT TOMATO BISCUIT SOUP!
© 2026 Mediagraphics, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
BATIUK & DAVIS
tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

An explosion of creative energy defines your year ahead. Ideas will flow effortlessly, and you will find immense joy in artistic expression, writing, or innovative problem-solving. Don't hold back, let the world see your unique perspective.

Aries Mar 21–Apr 20

Even if exhaustion lingers, Aries, success remains rewarding. Don't regret resting; it served a purpose. Stay committed to goals, and trust the angels to deliver opportunities when timing aligns.

Taurus Apr 21–May 20

Transformation asks you to trust yourself, Taurus. Life's uncertainty encourages pursuing what brings joy. Events may accelerate quickly, so move decisively yet wisely, and manifest your desires with confidence.

Gemini May 21–Jun 21

The light is shining, Gemini, yet your attention remains on discomfort. Challenges in love or work may reflect resistance to change. Embrace adaptation and discover unexpected opportunities awaiting you.

Cancer Jun 22–July 23

Pause and consider your options carefully, Cancer. Relationships hold special importance now. Opportunities are arriving to strengthen your life. Gather information thoughtfully, trust stability, and prepare for action.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Powerful renewal energy surrounds you, Leo, increasing your natural magnetism. Focus on meaningful goals instead of draining thoughts. If leaving something behind, do so kindly, honoring everyone involved.

Virgo Aug 24–Sep 23

An important chapter is ending, Virgo. While fulfilling responsibilities, remain openhearted toward others. Give generously without expectation today. Keep pursuing your goals, and the Universe may surprise you.

Libra Sep 24–Oct 22

Take lessons from current circumstances, Libra, and release pessimistic expectations. Appreciate the abundance already present. Don't wait for perfect conditions; begin laying foundations and take that first step.

Scorpio Oct 23–Nov 22

Recent chaos is temporary, Scorpio. You are more fortunate than you recognize, and everyday comforts are valuable blessings. Leave unnecessary drama behind and lean on meaningful connections for support.

Sagittarius Nov 23–Dec 22

Your desired outcome is approaching, Sagittarius. The Universe is aligning circumstances in your favor. Whether uniting or separating, progress continues. Prioritize relationships and seek balance wherever it feels necessary.

Capricorn Dec 23–Jan 20

Stop analyzing every detail for deeper meaning, Capricorn. Overthinking keeps you connected to unwanted energy. Nothing important is missing; feeling secure, loved, and supported already provides true stability.

Aquarius Jan 21–Feb 19

Good fortune has supported positive developments, Aquarius. Maintain progress through balance and moderation. If facing heartbreak or uncertainty, remain patient. Delegate responsibilities wisely and concentrate on essential priorities.

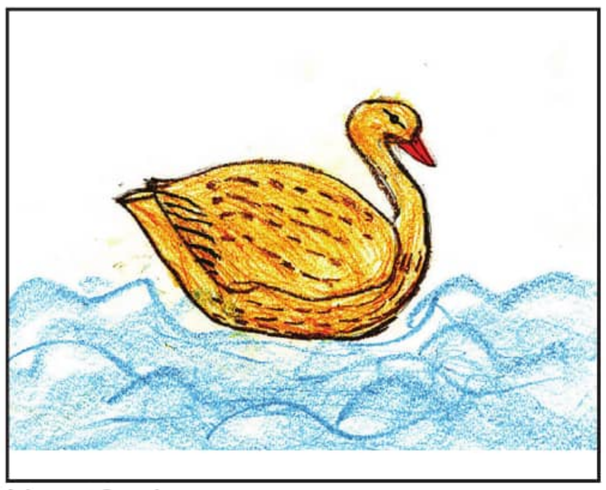
Pisces Feb 20–Mar 20

Avoiding a stalemate won't create resolution, Pisces. Look for answers around you and trust intuition. Your direction will emerge gradually, but meaningful discoveries require active effort and exploration.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE

Beulah, Bengaluru



Ashmewet, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

[3+3-10]÷ (-8) =
[-4]³ ÷ (-8) =
-64 / (-8) =
8

BULL'S EYE

desert, DESSERT, deter, reset, rest, rested, steed, steer, terse, tree, treed, tress

FAST FIVE

S	K	A	R	A
R	E	C	C	O
R	E	C	U	R
U	M	A	M	I
D	E	B	A	G

RIDDLER 15 (-7, /7)

STRIKE OUT

I	D	L	Y		A	I	D		S	A	G	A		C
R		E			D		O			R				C
R	A	G	G	E	D		G	N	O	M	I			C
E		U		X	E	N	I	A		P				O
B	A	M	B	E	R		E	R	B	I	U	M		
L		E	R	G		L		R	O	T		P		
C	A	M	B	E	R		E	R	B	I	U	M		
E		U		X	E	N	I	A		P		O		
R	A	G	G	E	D		G	N	O	M	I	C		
R		E			D		O			R		C		
I	D	L	Y		A	I	D		S	A	G	A		

QUICK

		T				T		R		S		M		D
I	N	T	E	N	T		A	V	E	N	U	E		
N		U	N	C	H	A	K		U		T	O	T	O
		E		K		R		R				T		O
		G		O		P		P		A				
H	E	E	L	S		E	V	E	R	E	S	T		
		R				S		V				R		
A	F	F	O	R	D	S		G	R	E	E	T		
		N				N		Z		E		T		
H	D	M	I		E	X	A	C	T	I	N	G		
		E		R		P		P		T		U		
E	S	T	E	E	M		O	N	E	M	A	N		
U		M		I		T		L				S		

QUOTE UNCODE

One of the symptoms of a losing streak is a turnover of top executives. It's a revolving door.

K. Starting at top left and moving clockwise in a spiral, letters move back through the alphabet in steps of 2, 3, 4, etc.

MENSA PUZZLE

4	8	6	1	7	2	5	3	9
5	9	1	6	3	8	4	2	7
7	3	2	5	4	9	8	1	6
8	1	3	9	5	4	7	6	2
6	7	4	8	2	3	1	9	5
2	5	9	7	1	6	3	4	8
9	2	7	3	8	1	6	5	4
1	4	5	2	6	7	9	8	3
3	6	8	4	9	5	2	7	1

SUDOKU

ALPHA TRIANGLE

W, We, Dew, Wide, Wined, Winged, Welding.

GO FIGURE

Easy
9 + 5 − 3 + 9 = 20
Medium
5 x 6 − 1 + 3 = 32
Hard
5 + 9 x 4 + 4 = 60

LOOP

KAKURO

Volume No 19, Issue No 131 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by Lokesh K.V. at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore–560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru–560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon–responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

 # Life and times of Armani
Two-time Palme d'Or-winning filmmaker Bille August is set to direct a biopic on late fashion designer Giorgio Armani

INTERVIEW | MADHURI DIXIT NENE, ACTOR

'We all have rough edges'

Actor says she is happy cinema is finally accepting that reality

One look at Madhuri Dixit Nene, Indian cinema's timeless icon, and you're struck by her seemingly effortless perfection, the radiant smile, unmatched grace, and captivating screen presence. Yet, a conversation with her reveals a different perspective. The celebrated actor believes that true strength lies not in perfection, but in embracing one's flaws. In a candid conversation with Renuka Vyavahare of Bombay Times, Madhuri spoke about her recent film, Maa Behen, directed by Suresh Triveni, and how Hindi cinema's portrayal of mothers has evolved over the years. Excerpts...

A scene in Maa Behen shows your character warning her daughters that if she goes to jail, they'll go with her. The writing portrays mothers as ordinary people capable of making mistakes, doesn't it?
When we think of mothers in Indian cinema, the first name that comes to mind is Nargisji in Mother India. Then there are iconic performances by actors such as Rohini Hattangadi in Agneepath, Nirupa Roy in Deewar, and Raakhee in Karan Arjun and Ram Lakhan. These characters were powerful and memorable, but they were also idealised. Mothers were often placed on a pedestal. They were expected to sacrifice everything for their children. What struck me about Maa Behen was its realistic approach. My character isn't the ideal mother or wife. She's independent, chaotic, and imperfect. Characters today feel more real and relatable. These are women you encounter in everyday life. Everyone is flawed, and flaws are wonderful. We all have rough edges, and I'm glad cinema is finally embracing that reality.

You have ruled the film industry for decades. People often associate you with perfection, whether in your work or your appearance. Yet you see imperfection as a source of strength.
Beauty lies in the eye of the beholder. And honestly, imperfection is power. I don't believe perfection truly exists. No one can be perfect. My journey has always been about striving for excellence, about trying to give my best in everything I do. The pursuit itself is what fascinates me. The process of constantly learning, improving, and challenging yourself is far more meaningful than achieving some impossible standard of perfection.

As a Bollywood superstar, does working in the streaming space feel more liberating since there is no box-office pressure?
There is certainly a sense of freedom in the OTT space because you're not bound by commercial expectations. You're not worrying about how many crores a film or series will earn. Instead, the focus shifts to creating something meaningful and engaging, something audiences genuinely enjoy watching. The goal is to tell compelling stories and create content that feels relatable and authentic.

What kind of work excites you at this stage of your career?
I want to explore characters that are different from anything I've done before. I enjoy challenges, whether it's learning a new dialect, stepping into unfamiliar territory, or portraying someone completely unlike myself. Anything that pushes me out of my comfort zone and makes me feel vulnerable, fascinates me as an actor.

Sadie's life after 'Stranger Things'

Hollywood actress Sadie Sink has shared that she has "bittersweet" feelings about the end of her hit streaming show 'Stranger Things'.

The 24-year-old actress had her big career breakthrough portraying Max Mayfield in Stranger Things, the hit Netflix show, between 2017 and 2025, and Sadie has now admitted to having mixed feelings while watching the finale, reports 'Female First UK'.

She told Nylon magazine, "I was watching it with my brother and he started crying and then I started crying. He was looking at us like, 'Are you guys crying?'. It was just completely bittersweet".

She further mentioned, "It's been 10 years. It's seen us through so many different phases of our lives. All good things must end".

Since leaving the show, Sadie has starred in a West End production of Romeo and Juliet. The actress admits that she's loved her time in London, but she'll return to New York once the production wraps. —IANS

Imperfect balance

Actor Ali Fazal described himself as "imperfect" while speaking about the challenges of balancing work and social life in the film industry. In his latest post on Instagram, the 'Fukrey' actor revealed that his immersion in cinema and creative pursuits often causes him to miss social gatherings, birthdays, and other personal occasions. Ali also mentioned that he is not very expressive when it comes to showing love to the people close to him. However, he added that he always finds his own quiet ways to make them feel seen, valued, and cared for in his life.

The actor also reflected on his journey with "Raakh," calling it "an amazing ride." He shared that working with the team and being part of the project turned into a meaningful experience for him. Sharing his photos, Ali wrote, "Can i just say its been an amazing ride with these beautiful people and the entire team of Raakh. Ironically i am not very expressive with the people i love... but in my own way i find ways to let them know that they are witnessed and loved in my world. I often forget.. i miss birthdays, celebrations, invites.... I get lost in dreams and fantasies and cinema.. i am not perfect.. but what i am is - strong. I am there and i can listen." (sic). —ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Social drama

Director-cum-actor Rangaswamy Kapanipalya's upcoming film Sarvantaryami conveys a message to parents and children on the menace of mobile phone addiction. The trailer of the movie and four of its songs were screened at an event. The movie, supported by Hitha R Gowda, is scheduled to arrive in theatres on July 17.

"Sarvantaryami is a social drama. We have the Central Board of Film Certification to categorise the movies meant for adults and children. But, there are no restrictions on using mobile phones. Lack of restrictions on the use of mobile phones is badly affecting children's future. I am happy to say the movie has turned out well. I thank the cast and crew of the movie," said Kapanipalya.

Actor Auto Nagaraj said Sarvantaryami is his 65th movie as an actor. "I play a father in the movie that revolves around the bonding between him and his daughter. The script of the movie is very good. I hope moviegoers will encourage it," he said.

Item song

An item song – Guntur Ammaayi – from the movie Keke was unveiled on the occasion of Sonu Srinivas Gowda's birthday on Tuesday. The team celebrated Sonu's birthday at Kalavidara Sangha.

The movie is directed by Somasekhar GK while Ramali Naik and Kalyan have supported it.

Kiran Thotambyle is the music director for this movie. "I succeeded in composing music for this song in 20 days. A group of youngsters visit an eatery – Guntur Ammayi – searching for food at night. They insist that Sonu perform the dance. It is a Telugu song," said Thotambyle.

This lyric of the song was penned by Thotambyle and it is sung by Aishwarya Rangarajan. "Keke will be my first movie, as a music director, to be released this year. I worked for four more movies. Keke has three more songs," the music director said.

Gunturi Ammayi was released through Alapana Audio. "Gunturu Ammayi is my maiden dance number. I am lucky to get this opportunity for which I thank the producer, director and music director," said Sonu.